

A Study on the Historical Genealogy of Estate Steward and its Contemporary Significance in the U. K.

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Agricultural advisors with expertise and skills have been growing in importance for the development of agricultural environmental policy and farm diversification in the U. K. Contemporary agricultural advisors have succeeded the historical position of an estate steward. An estate steward used to support a landlord with estate management. Relevant government offices recommend that farmers consult with agricultural advisors before beginning agricultural diversification. Therefore, relevant government offices often design highly delicate policies subject to the existence of agricultural advisors. However, Japanese legal scholars have not treated estate steward as a main subject of the study of historical agricultural law. The reason is that the estate steward was not regarded as an independent entity but a mere extension of the landlord. Furthermore, the duties of an estate steward were diversified and extended, making it difficult to clearly understand the scope of this position.

The purpose of this paper is to explain how the concept of stewardship formed by estate stewards in the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, is the basis for the contemporary understanding of agricultural land management in the eyes of the sociology of law. Specifically, this paper will demonstrate that eighteenth century estate steward as a profession aimed to

maintain harmony within the local society for their landlord. This public function of estate steward is the basis of the contemporary concept of stewardship and an adjustment device for related policies.

In addition, this paper identifies that the key factor in establishing a partnership of regional, environmental and agricultural policies is the existence of experts or institutions as 'mediators'. To grapple with such issues in Japan in the future, it is worth considering the historical genealogy of estate steward and its contemporary significance in the U. K.